

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AGR-05 /075 W

----- 045413

R 040643Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7444

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 3365

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK, IR

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN'S RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN AND
IRAN

1. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ABDULLAH MAY 2 GAVE VISITING
DESK OFFICER AUSTRIAN AND ME A SUMMARY OF THE CURRENT
STATE OF AFGHANISTAN'S RELATIONS WITH IRAN AND PAKISTAN.

2. WITH RESPECT TO IRAN, ABDULLAH SAID THAT RELATIONS
ARE CURRENTLY EXCELLENT. HE SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN
SOME PROBLEMS WITH RESPECT TO IRANIAN ASSISTANCE TO
AFGHANISTAN AND THAT THESE PROBLEMS APPEAR TO HAVE
RESULTED FROM THE TRANSFER OF THE FORMER IRANIAN
MINISTER OF COMMERCE MAHDAVI AND SOME CORRUPTION IN THE
IRANIAN MINISTRY OF COMMERCE. THESE PROBLEMS APPEAR TO
HAVE BEEN OVERCOME AS A RESULT OF THE APPOINTMENT OF A
NEW MINISTER. THIS NEW MINISTER WILL BE BRINGING A
DELEGATION TO AFGHANISTAN IN MID-MAY PRIMARILY TO
DISCUSS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOWER HELMAND AND THE
RAILROAD PROJECT. ABDULLAH SAID THAT THE IRANIANS AND
AFGHANS HA E BEEN COORDINATING THEIR EFFORTS IN RECENT
DAYS TO CONTROL FLOODING IN THE LOWER HELMAND. (COMMENT:
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AFGHANS HAVE RECENTLY PUBLICIZED RECEIPT OF IRANIAN
RED CRESCENT SOCIETY RELIEF SUPPLIES DESTINED FOR AFGHAN

FLOOD AND EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS, AND ON MAY 1 PRESIDENT DAOUD DESPATCHED MESSAGE TO SHAH EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER IRAN'S OWN RECENT FLOOD DISASTERS.)

3. WITH RESPECT TO PAKISTAN, ABDULLAH INDICATED THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE ACTIVITY UNDERWAY IN AFGHAN-PAK RELATIONS. WHILE APPRECIATING PAK ASSISTANCE TO THE VICTIMS OF THE RECENT FLOODS AND EARTHQUAKE IN AFGHANISTAN (KABUL 3200), ABDULLAH CHARACTERIZED THIS ASSISTANCE AS AN EFFORT BY BHUTTO TO MAKE PROPAGANDA. HE SAID THAT THE PAKISTANIS HAD EXAGGERATED THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE IN AFGHANISTAN. HE ALSO SAID THAT IT APPEARED THAT THE PAKISTANIS HAD NOT EXPECTED THE AFGHANS TO ACCEPT THEIR ASSISTANCE BECAUSE IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS THEY WERE NOT ABLE TO SUPPLY THE TRUCKS THEY SAID THEY WOULD SUPPLY AND HAVE ASKED THE AFGHANS TO FURNISH TRUCKS. NEVERTHELESS, ABDULLAH SAID, HE WAS PLEASED THAT THE PAKISTANIS' ASSISTANCE HAD BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY A CESSATION OF PAKISTANI PROPAGANDA AGAINST AFGHANISTAN. HE COULD NOT SAY HOW LONG THIS CESSATION WOULD LAST. BUT HE ADDED THAT THE GOA HAS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL TO BE PUT TO THE PAKISTANIS AND THAT HE HOPED TO BE IN A POSITION IN A FEW DAYS TO INFORM ME OF THIS PROPOSAL. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT THE PAKISTANIS WOULD ACCEPT A NEW AFGHAN PROPOSAL FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THEIR RELATIONS. (COMMENT: AMBASSADOR ARSHAD CONFIDED APRIL 29 HE HAD RECOMMENDED COMPLETE MORATORIUM ON ANTI-AFGHAN PROPAGANDA COMING OUT OF PAKISTAN, AND OUR EMBASSY'S INFORMAL COVERAGE OF PAK PROPAGANDA MEDIA INDICATES HIS RECOMMENDATION WAS ACCEPTED. YESTERDAY MAY 2 WE NOTED CESSATION OF UNFRIENDLY COMMENT REGARDING PAKISTAN FROM RADIO AFGHANISTAN'S USUAL PROPAGANDA VEHICLE "THE PUSHTUNISTAN PROGRAM".)

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